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December 30, 1993

In These Times
2040 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647

To the editor:

As a loyal subscriber and sometime contributor to your publication for many years, I was more than a bit disturbed at the two articles/commentaries that appeared in the wake of the 30th anniversary of the JFK assassination, particularly the one by David Futrelle. As is so characteristic of the mainstream press, both authors seem to think there are basically only two positions in this long-standing controversy: the official government case as originally propounded by the Warren Commission and most recently defended by Gerald Posner in Case Closed, or the unofficial, often wild, speculations of a veritable army of conspiracy buffs. There is another, more responsible position (which I would want and expect to see more of in an "alternative newsmagazine"): one which critically analyzes the official story and finds it deceptive and deceitful; but also, one which finds the vast majority of conspiracy theories equally wanting in fact and logic.

You do not have to look any farther than its own evidence to thoroughly discredit the Warren Commission's conclusions. That is the real beauty of Sylvia Meagher's fine book, Accessories After the Fact, which you dishonor by listing it with some certifiable trash under the heading "Conspiracy-a-go-go". And Gerald Posner is just another in a long line of frauds who picks and chooses "evidence" to make the claim that Oswald was the sole assassin appear credible. I say fraud because it is not just that Posner indulges in character assassination and fancy computer simulations, but that he ignores and distorts the known evidence (or perhaps not so known among all the journalists who have written about this subject in recent years).

Let me give you just one example of what I mean by fraud, among numerous such instances. Gerald Posner repeats the long-standing fairy tale about the Kennedy family blocking the Warren Commission's access to the autopsy photographs and X-rays. However, contained in an executive session transcript of the Warren Commission, which Posner himself cites in another context, chief counsel J. Lee Rankin admits that they had this material (see enclosed documentary support). And not only that, but they realized that President Kennedy was shot in the back not the back of the neck as the Warren Commission and Posner claim. On this basis alone, the single-bullet theory is an impossibility. Harold Weisberg obtained and published this transcript almost two decades ago!

I was fairly young when JFK was shot and I guess, as Mr. Futrelle, that the Watergate scandal was the beginning of my political consciousness. But contrary to Mr. Futrelle, who seems to have little understanding or knowledge of the JFK assassination, I would contend that the failure of our basic institutions both then and now in connection with that assassination and its investigations make the abuses of Watergate rather tame by comparison. And where has the press been all this time?

Sincerely,

Gerald Ginocchio

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P.S. I am also enclosing a copy of an article that was recently done about me for our school paper. I am not trying to promote myself or any book I am working on. Most of my energy has gone into teaching and trying to be adequately informed. However, you might be interested to know that Harold Weisberg has completed a rough draft of a critical book on Case Closed, tentatively entitled, Hoax!, which may be out as early as this coming April.